

MORI/CDF
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SC No. 07812/73

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
6 October 1973HAK
SCOWCROFT
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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

MIDDLE EAST(Situation Report Number 3 / 1830Z 2030 M.E.
As of 2:30 PM EDT)

1. General: Few details of the battle situation have come out of the area. A general Israeli statement that Arab forces are being repulsed on all fronts was issued by Prime Minister Meir and an IDF spokesman. At 1820 Tel Aviv time Radio Israel carried an IDF report that Egyptian armored forces were continuing to pour across two bridges over the canal but were being checked in all places by Israeli armor and air forces.

2. Egyptian Front: [redacted] contrary to the previously cited Israeli report, Egyptian aircraft continued active at least to 1700 (Tel Aviv time). [redacted] Egyptian aircraft were [redacted] over the Sinai near the Israeli fighter base at Bir Jifjafah. [redacted] other Egyptian fighters were [redacted] conducting defensive patrols near the Canal at about 1600 (Cairo time).

3. Cairo Radio claims that 11 Israeli aircraft were shot down and only ten of its own jets were lost in today's fighting.

4. [redacted] Israeli aircraft were active along the east bank of the Canal as of 1800 local time. These aircraft probably are supporting the Israeli ground forces [redacted]

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6. Soviet Naval Activity in the Mediterranean: The movements of the Soviet naval forces in the Mediterranean suggest that they had little advance warning--at best a day or so--of the potential for fighting in the Middle East. The surface forces are now beginning to concentrate in the eastern Mediterranean, but most of the submarines are in the western Mediterranean.

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7. Surface Ships: The flagship of the Soviet Mediterranean Squadron--a submarine tender--turned east yesterday. It is now east of Tunisia, heading toward the eastern Mediterranean, accompanied by a cruiser. The flagship could reach the eastern Mediterranean tomorrow.

8. The Soviet ships in Port Said left there yesterday and are now in the area of Latakia, Syria. This group consists of two small amphibious landing ships and a destroyer escort. The only Soviet naval ship still known to be in an Egyptian port this morning was a destroyer in Alexandria. That ship has probably put to sea by now.

9. A Soviet missile frigate and nine destroyers are in the waters near Greece and Crete. These ships are expected to move farther to the east in the next day or two.

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10. Submarines: Some 16 to 18 Soviet diesel-powered submarines are in the western Mediterranean. They have been involved in a routine turnover operation with about half of them having recently

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arrived to relieve the others, most of which have been in the Mediterranean for over six months.

11. There is only one Soviet nuclear-powered attack submarine known to be in the Mediterranean. We estimate that this submarine and at least one diesel submarine, are in the eastern Mediterranean. ✓

12. Possible Related Activity: Soviet naval reconnaissance aircraft appear to be preparing for long-range flights to both Cuba and Guinea. Support aircraft departed the USSR on 5 October for Conakry and Havana, and five of the reconnaissance aircraft are at their forward deployment base in the Soviet Northern Fleet. If the flights do take place, they may be for the purpose of keeping track of US naval forces in the North Atlantic. ✓

13. Syrian Front: Fighting in the Golan Heights area continues but specific details are not available. The Syrian armed forces have declared the waters off Lebanon and Syria a prohibited area.

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